

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please add new sheet containing new figure 36. Fig. 36 is a sectional side view of modular housings 12 and end caps 13 for forming many of the light sources disclosed in the earlier figures. No new matter is entered as each individual component of this figure is illustrated in at least one earlier figure. The figure is being added at the request of the examiner.

## REMARKS

The office action of December 1, 2005 has been reviewed and the examiner's comments carefully considered. The examiner is thanked for indicating that the subject matter of claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 9-11, 13, 16-18, 20 and 70-72 define over the prior art of record. Claim 69 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 70, claim 70 has been cancelled and claim 71 amended to depend from claim 69. Claims 69-72 are believed to be in condition for allowance in accordance with the examiners suggestions.

The examiner's remaining comments will now be addressed in turn.

The examiner has objected to the drawings requesting that every element of the claims be illustrated. The applicants object to this requirement in that every element of the claims is already shown in the original 35 figures. The plurality of tubular housings and end caps are shown in the individual drawings of the specific light sources that can be formed with the minimal components of the present invention. Regardless, in accordance with the examiner's request new figure 36, which is the last unnumbered page of this submission, has been added in this amendment to illustrate the collection of housings and end caps illustrated in earlier figures. There is no new matter in figure 36 as each component is illustrated in at least one earlier figure, and many have been shown in multiple earlier figures. In conclusion the drawing requirement was believed to be inappropriate and unwarranted, but the new figure should address this objection in any case.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 9-11, 13, 16-18, 20 under 112 second paragraph indicating that it "is unclear how a plurality of tubular housing have a plurality of end caps attached to each of the opposed ends of the tubular housing as recited in claim 1." The rejection is simply not understood. The claim recites the interconnection of claim elements such that those of ordinary skill in the art understand the meets and bounds of the claimed invention, nor is the language vague or indefinite.

As defined in claim 1, the present invention provides a modular light source system for forming a plurality of distinct light sources, such as a fiber optic light source 10, flashlight 100, fiber optic light source 200 and 300, fixed lens flashlights 400, 500,

600, 700, 800, 900, and 1100, zoom lens flashlight 1000, lanterns 1200, 1300, and 1400, search rescue strobe 1500 and 1600, trouble lights 1700, 1800, 1900, 2000, 2100, and 2200, flare 2300, 2400, 2500 and 2600, and remote powered light sources 2700, 2800. As described in the specification for each of the distinct light sources, many distinct light sources share a common tubular housing, such as a double D-cell size, a triple D-cell size and the like. One tubular housing can be used to form a wide collection of distinct light sources associated with that common housing. The present invention is directed towards LED based lighting systems, such that a plurality of LED based lighting members are associated with the distinct lighting members. Each individual LED based lighting member comprising at least one LED element and may be selectively mounted in a tubular housing for forming an associated lighting member, wherein each distinct lighting source comprises one of the LED based lighting member. Finally, each distinct light source is formed of a pair of the end caps attached, generally by threading, to the ends of the tubular housing. Replacing the end caps of one light source with a different end cap will form a different light source, e.g. moving from a flashlight to a lantern. Consequently a plurality of end caps are selectively attached to the opposed ends of a common tubular housing. Distinct light sources can be formed through replacement of the LED based lighting members and the end caps, as evident from the specification. This is clearly delineated in the claims and not found in any of the prior art of record. Reconsideration of this rejection and allowance of claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 9-11, 13, 16-18 and 20 is respectfully requested.

The examiner has rejected the subject matter of claims 93, 95 and 96 in view of the combined teachings of the Sharrah patent taken in view of the Drohan patent. Claim 93 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention from the teachings of the prior art taken alone or in any reasonable combination.

Claim 93 has been amended to clarify that the housing of the present invention is sized for D-cell batteries. The size of the housing is critical in that the present invention as defined in claim 93 and the Sharrah patent are directed toward distinct lighting members. The Sharrah patent is directed to what is normally called a pen light stating that "flashlight 10 has an outer diameter of only about 1 cm (about 0.38 inch)" and that the "small outer diameter of flashlight 10 advantageously permits flashlight 10 to be

"pocket-sized" in that it is of a size that permits it to be carried in a pocket or pouch." The entire point of the Sharrah patent is to create a novel switch for such small lights. In contrast the present invention is directed toward a solid state light source wherein the LED elements are of at least 1 watt power and the source has a power source sufficient to power the same. The Sharrah patent is directed to a distinctly different light source, explicitly teaching away from the present claimed invention. The claims have been amended to further clarify that the end cap (13) at the leading end (i.e. where the light is emitted) includes a window (30) or optic (20) spaced from the LED element, which will protect the LED element (and may further collimate the emitting light). This structure is simply not found in the pen light device of the Sharrah patent or similar device, where the LED element is actually extending beyond the front of the housing.

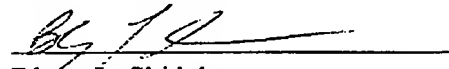
The secondary reference does not cure the deficiencies of the primary reference and merely shows that clamps for holding flashlights are known, in the abstract. It is further not clear why one of ordinary skill in the art would use this clamp with the described small pen light of Sharrah, as such would significantly limit the described advantages of the small pen light of the Sharrah patent.

Regardless, it is the applicants combination of elements that is not found in the applied prior art. Any single element can be found somewhere in the prior art, as all inventions are made up of existing nuts and bolts. The claimed combination of elements defines a unique LED based light source that is not fairly taught or suggested in the prior art and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 9-11, 13, 16-18, 20, 69, 71-72, 93, and 95-96 remain in the application and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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